

## Introducing: Red, Blue, and Brady

Music:	<a href="#">00:00</a>	INTRO MUSIC
JJ:	<a href="#">00:08</a>	This is the legal disclaimer where we tell you that the views, thoughts, and opinions shared on this podcast belong solely to us, the people talking, and not necessarily Brady or Brady's affiliates. Please note that this podcast does contain discussions of violence that some people may find disturbing. Don't worry-- we find it pretty disturbing too.
Music:	<a href="#">00:39</a>	THEME SONG
JP:	<a href="#">00:43</a>	Welcome to the teaser for red, blue, and Brady from one of the longest standing national organization advocating for gun violence prevention. Red, blue, and Brady combines the best of current events and personal narratives, exploring the epidemic of gun violence in America.
JJ:	<a href="#">00:59</a>	With Brady, staff, survivors, activists, writers, politicians, we try to provide you with an informative and at times humorous, if we can, discussion about the country's love of guns, the repercussions that come as a result of that love, and efforts to find a middle ground within the movement to prevent gun violence.
JP:	<a href="#">01:19</a>	We want you to learn the whys and hows, but most importantly, what is being done and still needs to be done to stop the epidemic of gun violence that touches us all.
JJ:	<a href="#">01:33</a>	Basically, we want people to know what it is that Brady does and how it does it, and also that gun violence prevention is bigger than just Brady.
JP:	<a href="#">01:43</a>	This is a movement, one that every American should care and know about.
JJ:	<a href="#">01:48</a>	And we're red, blue, and Brady because we're not a political entity. We're an American nonprofit organization, one that is devoted to gun safety and against gun violence. We're purple and trust me, there's a lot of purple in this office to point that out.
JP:	<a href="#">02:03</a>	And who are we? Well, I'm JP.

JJ: [02:06](#) And I'm JJ--and we didn't plan it that way. It just sort of worked out. Today we're talking with Ivy Schamis, an amazing educator, advocate, and survivor. In this small little teaser we provide you with a short chat we had with Ivy about her one time service dog, the fabulous Luigi.

Music: [02:25](#) BUTTON MUSIC

JJ: [02:28](#) Tell me about Luigi? Because I saw some very adorable photos.

Ivy: [02:32](#) Okay, JJ. There was an unbelievable outpouring of support. Like I said, really just from every walk of life everywhere and one of the things, and people came from other parts of Florida and they came from other states I think as well, and brought support dogs, service dogs and support dogs. And we were at, it was right after the shooting, they had a run. Scott Beigel was a teacher that had held the door open for kids to find safety and he was shot and killed and it was his first year in my department. Awesome young man. Um, and he was the cross country coach as well. He didn't know anything about cross country. He would just say run fast. Um, he was darling. He was tough. So cute. They had shirts now made of him, they say just run fast.

Ivy: [03:15](#) Um, and they, we had, they had an impromptu kind of a run for him at the park in Parkland right after the shooting a couple of days after. And I went, um, although everything's in my classroom, I didn't have anything at the time. I had no car, my car, my purse, nothing.

JJ: [03:31](#) You've never been able to get back, and have your classroom.

Ivy: [03:33](#) No, it's a crime scene. And so all my 17 or 18 years of teaching materials are still in there to start from scratch.

JJ: [03:40](#) So scratch, I remember an in a few articles, you had mentioned you have a banner and, and you mentioned it yourself from a Holocaust survivor.

Ivy: [03:47](#) Yes. My buddy Leon Schagrin is my, my man, my holocaust survivor who had it, who had gotten this big yellow banner to put in the back of the classroom. We will never forget, and it's still in there.

Ivy: [03:59](#) I mean everything is in there, uh, but sort of looking over all my materials yup they're using it as a crime scene because the state prosecutors looking for the death penalty and that, um, trial

won't be till 2020. So we've had to use like, like I said, portable classrooms. But, um, so we went to this park and, um, so I had nothing. So what people had to give me rides. I had no purse, nothing. I mean, everything was in the classroom and they couldn't get back in there. And I looked over and saw these women with golden retrievers and my head was in a state of fog. And because, you know, and I looked over and I said, oh my God, that's what we need. I don't want, I don't want pills and whatever people were trying to tell you what you need this. And I wanna go pet that dog.

Ivy:

[04:49](#)

And I went off to the circle of women and dogs and they said they came over from Naples, which is on the west coast of Florida. And they there to support us and dogs really change your whole mindset, your blood pressure, your everything. And I was petting and then come to find out that this dog, there were a bunch, um, one of them could come to the classroom with me every day and be there for the kids. And I have to tell you, that was a huge reason why many kids came back to school because of the dogs. I know that sounds crazy, but, so Luigi was one of the dogs they chose for me and he was at like a \$35,000 donation from the Italian American club, hence the name Luigi. Um, and he was darling, absolutely darling. And he came every day to class.

Ivy:

[05:34](#)

And I had a, uh, we were not in a portable at the time. We were just in other teachers. We were using other teacher's classrooms when they weren't planning very hard and he would come and the kids would, and he would sit there and the kids could pet him. And it's not that there wasn't work being done, he was just in his presence. And the classroom was just remarkable and all the students wanted to come back to school. And some of them said just to see Luigi, um, and other dogs as well. But Luigi was with me every day. He was not fully trained. And at the end of this, at the end of the year, it was great really, because he helps kids immensely. And at the end of the year, my husband and I went over to Naples to see him finish his training. And it was a highly, um, it was highly selective process for these dogs.

Ivy:

[06:18](#)

And he was, we literally saw him standing on his back paws, pushing a gentleman in a wheelchair with his front paws and opening refrigerator doors and picking things up. And I looked at, at Jeff and I said, I was crying because I loved Luigi so much I wanted him, but I said, I can't keep him. I can't keep him because he's, as much as we love him and he helped the kids come back. He needed to be with a wounded vet or , oh, somebody, he was trained to help someone in a wheelchair and

thank God I was able to do things for myself. I just, you know, maybe an emotional dog might have been something, but his service dog as a highly trained way specific, trained for more than my needs and, and so he's now living with a navy seal who was wounded and their, and his family.

- Ivy: [07:04](#) So I'm proud of that. It was hard to do, but I'm proud that he's, um, helping them. But any, any, they bought therapy pigs. I'm not, I kid you not ponies, dogs, anything that they thought would work and believe it or not, a lot of things worked. We also have a wellness center on campus as well, and it's always there. And if a kid feels that they need to see a counselor at any time of the day, it's available. So it's available to us. But I feel like, you know, I know that the shooting happened at our school, but what about other schools where kids needed as well.
- JJ: [07:37](#) Or in communities where this where there's violence every day.
- Ivy: [07:42](#) Correct.
- JJ: [07:42](#) But there's not media attention. People don't come with puppies to Chicago.
- Ivy: [07:45](#) No, they don't. They have and that's exactly right. That's exactly right. It's a, we got all this attention, but I'm, but I'm not saying it's about us. It's about everybody.
- JP: [07:54](#) Yeah. And that's why we advocate for those types of mental health resources to be in all these schools. So hopefully they can be preventative as well. Yes. But thank you again. I'm glad we got to talk a little bit about service dogs. That's one of my favorite topics.
- JJ: [08:09](#) Oh, I know that JP loves them, but, and I'm a, we're all big pet fans here at Brady. That was also part of my interview process actually. Oh. Like I had to let them know like, cat or dog. And defend my choice.
- Ivy: [08:20](#) Everything.
- JJ: [08:22](#) Everything. But I lean towards the cat. Okay. I feel like you've got to earn it. Okay. Dogs are just endlessly giving, but that's why I think they're goo for service.

Ivy:	<a href="#">08:29</a>	I would always say that I want to be the person my dog thinks I am. Right? Yeah. So we all could be, yes. I believe me. All dogs would be united against gun violence if they could talk. All.
Music:	<a href="#">08:44</a>	BUTTON MUSIC
JP:	<a href="#">08:44</a>	Thanks for listening. Please subscribe so you'll be the first to know when we drop our podcasts. New full length episodes come every Monday. Weekly wrap ups come up every Friday. And fun little delicious minisodes will drop whenever we can.
JJ:	<a href="#">09:01</a>	As always, Brady's lifesaving work and Congress, the courts, and communities across the country is made possible thanks to you. For more information on Brady or how to get involved in the fight against gun violence, subscribe to this podcast, follow us on <a href="mailto:social@bradybuzzorvisitbradyunited.org">social@bradybuzzorvisitbradyunited.org</a> . Be safe and remember, take action, not sides.
Music:	<a href="#">09:35</a>	THEME MUSIC